



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING  
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**TO:** New Jersey Agricultural Leaders  
**FROM:** Joe Atchison III, Program Manager, NJ Outstanding Young Farmer  
**SUBJECT:** Call for Nominations – 2016 NJ Outstanding Young Farmer

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is accepting nominations for the **2016 Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) Award**.

Enclosed is a program overview and *Official State Nomination Form*. The submission deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2015**. Any individual or organization can nominate a deserving young farmer's name. You may re-nominate persons who have been nominated in the past but who did not compete in the National OYF program; however, these candidates must still meet the eligibility criteria.

The purpose of the OYF program has not changed since the award was first presented in 1955. The goal is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer, to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of farmers' challenges, to develop an appreciation of their contributions and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of the growing urban awareness of farmers' importance and impact on America's economy. The National OYF program is sponsored by Deere & Company, administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America Fraternity, and supported by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and the US Junior Chamber of Commerce.

When I receive your completed *Nomination Form (s)*, an OYF application will be sent to the candidate(s). Applicants are not required to complete a financial statement for state competition.

The 2015 winner is Henry "HR" Byma, a dairy farmer from Sussex County. Henry has been selected as a National Outstanding Young Farmer semi-finalist and will compete for one of the four National OYF awards. The first runner-up was Jessica Niederer (vegetables) from Mercer County, and the second runner-up was Tor Andersen (vegetables and grain) from Sussex County. For the 2015 program we received nine nominations and five applications from throughout the state. There are many deserving young farmers in New Jersey and I hope that you will nominate several young farmers located throughout the state, not just your own geographic area or commodity group.

If you have any questions on the OYF program, contact me by phone at (609) 984-2223 or you can e-mail me at [joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us).

Enclosures